

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 15-35 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-13 and 15-35 are rejected.

Claims 1-4, 8-11, 14-15, 21-25, and 31-35 are amended. Thus, claims 1-13 and 15-35 remain pending for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. §102 AND §103

Claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Borg and Machida.

Claims 1-13 and 15-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Machida (USP 6,035,304) in view of Borg (USP 5,813,026).

In response to the previous arguments that if Machida and Borg were combined, the combined system would separately display Machida's freshness information as the time expired from the last update of the Borg's images, such that a user cannot observe at a glance the freshness of the condition information, the Examiner in the paragraph spanning pages 2-3 asserts, "certainly, a user is able to observe at a glance the freshness of the condition by reading the freshness information as calculated, namely, the absolute elapsed time." However, the Applicant respectfully assert that a combined Machida and Borg system fails to combine condition information and freshness information together to provide, **"a display mode displaying the condition information depending on the freshness of the condition information"** (e.g., claim 1).

The Examiner in page 3 of the Office Action relies on Borg, column 8, lines 41-60 to reject the claimed present invention's, "a display mode displaying the condition information depending on the freshness of the condition information." The previous amendment arguments emphasized that Borg in column 8, lines 55-60 discloses:

The user then indicates whether the user has selected one of the alternative behavioral responses or the acquired behavioral response by activating the activation button S2 or activation button S3, respectively. The corresponding group of instructions are then executed to display the symbol.

In response to the previous arguments, the Examiner asserts in page 3 of the Office Action,

Borg teaches determining a display mode for displaying a happy face or positive symbol when a happy tune is playing. In other words, Borg teaches associating happy or sad faces with happy or sad tunes being currently played. From the teaching of Borg, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to associate happy or angry faces dependent on the amount of time elapsed.

The Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner, because Borg expressly describes the symbols or images 62 as part of a behavioral modification program, in which a series of five images 62 represent alternative responses (e.g., taking a deep breath) to the acquired behavioral response (e.g., using tobacco products as an acquired behavioral response). When a user selects one of the alternative responses (e.g., taking a deep breath) by pressing a button S2, a positive symbol is displayed, and when the user selects an acquired behavioral response (e.g., used tobacco) by pressing a button S3, a negative symbol is displayed. Therefore, Borg's displayed symbols do not relate to freshness of information. In other words, ***Borg fails to disclose or suggest a motivation to be combined with Machida and/or to modify Machida to achieve the claimed present invention's, "a display mode displaying the condition information depending on the freshness of the condition information"*** (e.g., claim 1), because Borg's displayed symbols do not relate to freshness of information and cannot provide a suggestion or motivation to be combined with and/or to modify Machida, which relates to a multimedia broadcasting system providing the user with not only a multimedia service (main service), but also a wide variety of additional services specific to the main service (Abstract, column 5, lines 21-43), including freshness information 280 of a content (FIG. 16) as discussed in column 10, lines 54-58, which is a "time expired from the last update time found in attribute 131." In other words, there is no suggestion or motivation in Borg to combine Borg's displayed symbols with Machida's freshness information (time expired from the last update time) 280 and/or to modify Machida's freshness information 280 to achieve the claimed present invention's, ***"a display mode displaying the condition information depending on the freshness of the condition information"*** (e.g., claim 1).

Further, the independent claims, using claim 1 as an example, are amended for clarity, as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of displaying condition information which changes from time to time in a system transmitting and receiving the condition information from terminals connected to a network and displaying the condition information using a display unit, the system performing a process comprising:

storing a reference time for determining a freshness of the condition information in a terminal which receives the condition information from other terminals through the network;

determining ***a freshness level*** according to said reference time to determine the freshness of the condition information based on an elapsed time from said reference time; and

determining ***combining the condition information and the freshness of the condition information to determine a display mode*** displaying the condition information depending on the freshness of the condition information, wherein the display unit displays the display mode of the condition information and a user can observe at a glance the freshness of the condition information (emphasis added).

In contrast to Machida and Borg, the claimed present invention provides, “determining ***a freshness level*** according to said reference time to determine the freshness of the condition information based on an elapsed time from said reference time,” and “determining ***combining the condition information and the freshness of the condition information to determine a display mode*** displaying the condition information depending on the freshness of the condition information, wherein the display unit displays the display mode of the condition information and a user can observe at a glance the freshness of the condition information” (e.g., amended claim 1).

Machida’s FRESHNESS 280 in column 10, lines 54-58, is a “time expired from the last update time found in attribute 131,” which differs from the claimed present invention’s, “a freshness level,” because an elapsed time by itself does not convey a level of freshness. In contrast to Machida, the claimed present invention determines “***a freshness level*** according to said reference time to determine the freshness of the condition information based on an elapsed time from said reference time” (e.g., amended claim 1). Of course, as discussed above, Borg does not relate to freshness of information. For example, in contrast to Machida and Borg, dependent claim 5 recites, “wherein ***line widths of figure data*** corresponding to the display mode of the condition information ***are thick*** upon update of the condition information and ***line***

widths of the figure data are thinner as the freshness level deteriorates."

Further, Machida and Borg fail to "**combining the condition information and the freshness of the condition information to determine a display mode** displaying the condition information depending on the freshness of the condition information" (e.g., amended claim 1).

Support for the claim amendments can be found, for example, in page 9, line 13 to page 11, line 20, and FIGS. 4, 5, and 6, of the present Application.


In view of the claim amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the rejections of pending claims and allowance of pending claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
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